



# NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON CANCER RESEARCH

*Dedicated to Conquering Cancer Through Scientific Research*



2005 ANNUAL REPORT



The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR) promotes significant and original research in New Jersey into the causes, prevention and treatment of cancer and serves as a resource to providers and consumers of cancer services.

*Inside*

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## *A Message from the Chair*

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Dear Governor Corzine:

On behalf of the State of New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR) we are pleased and proud to present our 2005 Annual Report.

The NJCCR is a unique state agency which was formed in 1983 to launch a bold new attack on cancer. It has done this through the funding of research into the causes and treatment of cancer. This research has been conducted by promising young New Jersey scientists working in our academic institutions and hospitals.

Through its system of peer review, utilizing the talents of some of our nation's leading scientists, we have funded over \$27.6 million for 627 research projects on cancer over the past 20 years. However, this represents only a fraction of the total number of projects reviewed and approved, for which funding was not available.

The NJCCR's competitive seed grant program continues to gain national recognition as a model to effectively leverage major grants from national funding sources and has generated \$5.65 in national research monies for every dollar awarded in seed grants (2004). This program represents a proven and effective strategy to reduce the gap in research dollars returned to the state and strengthens the research infrastructure within New Jersey and at the same time addresses your need in establishing a government that is outcome driven. The NJCCR is the only agency receiving state appropriated cancer research funds that can demonstrate this type of return on investment.

Additionally, the NJCCR has begun to redefine and refocus our short- and long-term goals while fully embracing the core values that have made the NJCCR a model for other States that have launched similar research funding organizations around the country. Today's NJCCR consists of an energetic group of renowned academic researchers, distinguished clinicians and experienced industry executives who are searching for ways to maximize our revenue and activities to create more value to New Jersey's more than 700 cancer researchers and 370,000 cancer survivors.

As we enter a new year with guarded optimism over the economy and great enthusiasm over the ability of New Jersey's scientific community to combat this dreadful disease, we hope that your continued support will lead New Jersey in reducing the burden of cancer by way of the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research.

Respectfully yours,



Anna Marie Skalka, Ph.D.  
Chairperson





## STATE OF NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON CANCER RESEARCH

### *New Jersey's Cure for Cancer Starts Here*

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Founded in 1983 (Cancer Research Act – P.L.83, Ch.6), the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR) promotes and funds significant cancer research projects proposed and carried out by New Jersey scientists. The Act dedicates annually a sum of no less than \$1 million to the NJCCR to fund research into the causes, prevention and treatment of cancer. For the past 20 years, the NJCCR has provided more than \$27.6 million in support of discovery-oriented basic science cancer research. At the NJCCR, we believe the only way to truly bring an end to the suffering caused by cancer is through research.

The NJCCR has worked closely with experts throughout the state to achieve significant recent advances in understanding the cellular and molecular events that lead to cancer. Only by understanding the molecular and genetic properties of cancer cells can we understand what causes them to become malignant and how to reverse or prevent these changes.

While much remains to be discovered about the cause-and-effect of cancer, the potential to unravel these unknowns has accelerated remarkably. Scientists are closer to fully understanding the more complex interplay among the myriad of factors involved in cancer progression. This knowledge will, in turn, lead to ever expanding opportunities for prevention and cure.

New findings from laboratory research have already aided cancer specialists in the design of protocols for early diagnosis and improved treatment regimens. Important insights have been gained regarding the role of oncogenes, tumor suppressor genes, immunological factors and carcinogenic agents in the cancer process. As a result of discoveries made in these areas, new frontiers have emerged including molecular epidemiology, gene therapy, genetic risk evaluation, immunodiagnosis and immunocytotherapy, that hold significant promise in furthering the battle against cancer.

That is why for the past 20 years, our strategy has been to support New Jersey scientists by providing "seed" money for creative new research into the causes, prevention and treatment of cancer. Our goal has been to fund promising ideas from top scientists, which enables us to excel in recognizing and supporting many important cancer research breakthroughs at their infancy.

Looking back over our 20 years of progress, we are proud of how far cancer research has advanced as a result of the NJCCR's efforts. We are also proud of the proven success on our investment strategy, which has resulted in a return of almost six dollars in federal, peer-reviewed funding for every single "seed" dollar provided by the NJCCR. Looking ahead, the NJCCR is more committed than ever to funding innovative research and accelerating the pace at which new therapies and drugs are brought to the patients who need them most. In addition, we are also committed to continuing our efforts to bring together New Jersey laboratory and clinical investigators, legislators, and citizens, to advance our important mission.



# *NJCCR Members and Staff*

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The overall objectives, strategies and priorities of the NJCCR are set by the Commissioners, who actively participate in overseeing the program and make final recommendations on the research projects to be funded. In each Grant Cycle, the NJCCR awards grants based on the member's recommendations, following peer reviewer's evaluations, assessment of responsiveness to program priorities, and available funds.

The NJCCR currently consists of eleven members appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate: five scientists/clinicians; two members from a non-profit health organization, two members from private industry; one ex-officio member from the Department of Health and Senior Services, and one ex-officio member from the Department of Environmental Protection.

## **ANNA MARIE SKALKA, PH.D. – CHAIRWOMAN**

Dr. Skalka has been the Senior Vice President for Basic Science and Director of the Institute for Cancer Research at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia since 1987. Previously, she chaired the Department of Molecular Oncology at the Roche Institute for Molecular Biology in Nutley. Dr. Skalka has served on a number of national and international scientific advisory committees, and on the editorial boards of several scientific journals. She was a recipient of an Outstanding Investigator Grant from the National Cancer Institute and an unrestricted grant for research in infectious diseases from the Bristol Myers Squibb Co. In 1994, in recognition for her outstanding achievements, Dr. Skalka was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and in 1996 she was elected to the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Microbiology (AAM), serving on the Board of Governors from 1999-2002. Dr. Skalka is an internationally recognized expert on molecular genetics and the molecular biology of RNA tumor viruses. Together with former Commissioner Dr. Lynn Enquist, she is coauthor of the leading virology textbook. Dr. Skalka resides in Princeton, New Jersey.

## **KENNETH R. ADLER, M.D., FACP – VICE CHAIRMAN**

Dr. Kenneth Adler is currently an attending physician in Hematology-Oncology at Morristown Memorial Hospital and an assistant clinical professor at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He attended the University of Pittsburgh and graduated from Albany Medical College in New York. In addition, his internal medicine residency and Hematology-Oncology fellowship was completed at Albany Medical Center. In 2002, Dr. Adler was awarded the American Cancer Society of St. George National Award for his volunteer work on the local, state, and national level. He has served as a volunteer of the American Cancer Society since 1981 and has served on the National Oversight committee for the I Can Cope national program and chaired the state committee for patient and family services. He is active on the board of Cancer Hope Network and Gilda's Club and serves on the medical advisory board of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Dr. Adler was recently appointed to the National Clinical Practice Committee of the American Society of Hematology. Furthermore, Dr. Adler has been recognized as one of the leading oncologists/hematologists in the Metropolitan New York/New Jersey area, in the Castle-Connolly Top



Doctors in the Northeast Region and has also been named in New Jersey Monthly for the past eight years. He was named Physician of the Year by the American Cancer Society, and was honored by the New Jersey State Assembly for this award. He also received the Physician Home Care Award for Somerset County and was honored at the 2003 Pink Tie Ball by the Susan G. Komen Foundation of Northern New Jersey for his care of women with breast cancer. Dr. Adler was honored to receive the Community Service Award from the VNA of Northern New Jersey in 2004. He recently wrote and helped edit the introduction to the book **I'm Sorry You Have to Be Here**, by his patient Lois Cappetta-Bhatt, a mother's story on cancer, family, and support.

#### **THOMAS ATHERHOLT, PH.D.**

Dr. Atherholt is a member of the Division of Science, Research and Technology of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) where he is a research microbiologist. Dr. Atherholt received his doctorate in microbiology from Rutgers University. He performed environmental research at the Coriell Institute for Medical Research in Camden, NJ, for 10 years prior to joining the DEP in 1990. Dr. Atherholt serves as an ex-officio member representing the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection. He was awarded a Professional Achievement Award by the State of New Jersey for award-winning drinking water research, in May 2001. He resides in Moorestown, New Jersey.

#### **JEANNE C. BECK, PH.D.**

Dr. Beck is Professor at the Coriell Institute for Medical Research (CIMR) and the Director of the Coriell Cell Repositories (CCR). In this role, Dr. Beck is responsible for the solicitation of biological specimens for the Repositories and publicizing Repository activities, as well as oversight of the Bioinformatics and Molecular Biology Groups. In addition, she is actively involved with the Cooperative Family Registry for Breast Cancer Studies (CFRBCS). Another research endeavor that Dr. Beck spearheads is the development of a primate cell collection currently residing in the Institute's cell banks. Dr. Beck received a Ph.D. in biochemistry at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed two postdoctoral fellowships, one at Johns Hopkins and one at Harvard University. Prior to her current role at the Coriell Institute, Dr. Beck held faculty positions at both the Department of Medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. In addition, Dr. Beck spent some years as Research Director for the National Disease Research Interchange. She came to the Coriell Institute in 1995 as Assistant Director of the Coriell Cell Repositories. After a brief position as Acting Director of the cell banks, Dr. Beck became Deputy Director of the Coriell Cell Repositories in 1998.

#### **EDDY A. BRESNITZ, MD, MS**

Eddy A. Bresnitz, MD, MS is an internist and preventive medicine physician and serves as the Deputy Commissioner for Public Health Services Branch in the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. Dr. Bresnitz joined the Department as State Epidemiologist/ Assistant Commissioner in 1999 and became Senior Assistant Commissioner in 2003 and Deputy Commissioner in 2005. In his role as Deputy Commissioner/State Epidemiologist, Dr. Bresnitz oversees the Divisions of HIV/AIDS Services, Family Health Services, Public Health and Environmental Laboratories, Health Infrastructure Preparedness and Emergency Response, and Epidemiology, Environmental and Occupational Health Services. The Branch

includes the Cancer Epidemiology Service, the Office of Cancer Control and Prevention, and New Jersey CEED program. Dr. Bresnitz received his MD degree in 1974 from McGill University in Montreal, followed by an internship and residency in internal medicine at Montefiore Hospital in New York City. He completed fellowships in pulmonary medicine and clinical epidemiology in the early 1980s at the University of Pennsylvania, where he also received an MS in clinical epidemiology. Prior to joining the Department of Health and Senior Services, Dr. Bresnitz was Professor and Chairman of the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine at the MCP Hahnemann (now Drexel University) School of Medicine in Philadelphia. Dr. Bresnitz serves as an ex-officio member representing the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services. Dr. Bresnitz resides in Lawrenceville, NJ.

#### **JAMES BROACH, PH.D.**

Dr. Broach is currently serving as Associate Director of the Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics and Professor at Princeton University, Department of Molecular Biology. He completed his undergraduate studies at Yale University and was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry in 1969. In 1973, he was awarded a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, where he also completed his Predoctoral fellowship in Biochemistry, and Postdoctoral Fellowship in Medical Physics. In addition, he completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, upon which he was employed in the capacity of a Staff Scientist. Subsequently, he joined the State University of New York at Stony Brook as an Assistant/Associate Professor, a position he held just prior to serving in his current position at Princeton University. In the past, Dr. Broach has served as a Postdoctoral Fellow with the American Cancer Society, an Investigator for the American Heart Association, a Fellow with the American Academy of Microbiology, and a Member of the National Institutes of Health's Genetics Section. He also served as an Associate Editor for the Journal Molecular and Cellular Biology and Associate Editor for the Journal Cell. He also served as Co-Chairman of the 1991 Gordon Conference on Extrachromosomal Elements and Chairman of the 1993 Gordon Conference on Plasmid and Chromosome Dynamics. Dr. Broach was on the Scientific Review Board of the Frederick Cancer Center, Co-Founder/Director of Research for Cadus Pharmaceuticals, Co-Director/Review Board Member for the Life Sciences Research Foundation, he is a retired Editor of Molecular and Cellular Biology, and has published numerous articles in the field.

#### **BARTON A. KAMEN, M.D., PH.D.**

Dr. Kamen received his M.D. and Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University. He then did a residency and fellowship in Pediatrics and Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and Pharmacology at Yale University. After spending 15 years at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center as a Professor of Pediatrics and Pharmacology and as the Carl B. and Florence E. King Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics, he moved to the Cancer Institute of New Jersey at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in 1999. He is a Professor of Pediatrics and Pharmacology, director of Pediatric Oncology and an Associate Director of the Center. During his career he has been a recipient of a Leukemia Society Scholar Award, a Damon Runyon Walter Winchell Fellow and a Burroughs Wellcome Clinical Pharmacology Award and is one of only ten American Cancer Society Clinical Research Professors. He has authored approximately 250 papers and is the current Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Pediatric Hematology Oncology. Dr. Kamen resides in Princeton Junction, NJ.

### **MARIE T. LEITHAUSER, MBA, MS**

Marie Leithauser is Group Director of Planning and Management, Discovery and Exploratory Clinical Research at the Pharmaceutical Research Institute, Bristol-Myers Squibb. Previously, Ms. Leithauser was the Departmental Administrator and Adjunct Professor for the Laboratory for Cancer Research at Rutgers, The State University. In addition, her past experience includes positions as a Research Assistant at Vanderbilt University, and as a Laboratory Manager/Research Assistant in the Department of Biochemistry at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Ms. Leithauser earned her Masters of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a Masters of Science degree in Oncology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She resides in Lambertville, NJ.

### **HARVEY L. OZER, M.D.**

Dr. Ozer is Associate Dean for Oncology Programs at New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), and Director of the NJMS-University Hospital Cancer Center of UMDNJ in Newark. He previously served at NJMS as Chairman of the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, where he remains Professor, and as Senior Associate Dean for Research. His research on molecular mechanisms of carcinogenesis and of aging has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health for over 30 years. An internationally recognized expert on molecular genetics and cell biology of DNA tumor viruses and their cell interactions, Dr. Ozer has served on multiple National Institutes of Health and foundation training and research review panels as well as on editorial boards of scientific journals and on advisory committees to academic programs. He received his M.D. and initial research training at Stanford Medical School. Dr. Ozer resides in Hoboken, New Jersey.

### **BARBARA RABINOWITZ, PH.D.**

Dr. Rabinowitz is the first Commission member with expertise in the psychological and psychosocial aspects of cancer. She completed her doctorate in Social Work at Rutgers University and is also a registered nurse. Dr. Rabinowitz has published chapters in textbooks for physicians on the psychosocial aspects of cancer care as well as numerous articles on this and related topics. She has completed two important cancer research projects and is a frequent invited presenter for professional organizations nationwide. Dr. Rabinowitz is the Director of Oncology Services for Meridian Health. In addition, she maintains a private practice in psychotherapy and sex therapy and resides in Lakewood, New Jersey.

### **JEFFREY A. WARREN, M.P.A.**

Jeffrey Warren is a Senior Advisor to the National Pharmaceutical Council and a Principal with JR Market Strategies, Inc., a healthcare-consulting firm. Previously, Mr. Warren was responsible for Strategic Marketing and Media Relations for Pfizer Health Solutions. Earlier in his career, he served as Executive Vice President, Corporate Development for Cathedral Healthcare System. During his tenure with Cathedral, Mr. Warren was a National Program Director for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's New Jersey Health Services Development Program. Warren's past experience includes a tenure as Vice President, Corporate Development with Hackensack Medical Center and serving as the first Executive Secretary of the New Jersey Hospital Rate Setting Commission. He is President of the Board of Gilda's Club, Northern, NJ and a member of the board of Health Decisions. Mr. Warren serves on the Editorial Task Force Committee of AMGA's "Group Practice Journal". Jeff has a Masters Degree (MPA) in Health Policy, Planning and Administration from the Wagner School of Public Service at NYU. He resides in Parsippany, NJ.

### COMMISSION STAFF:

ANN MARIE HILL - *Executive Director*

MICHAEL C. TOLENO - *Assistant Director*

KELLY KIRKPATRICK - *Grant Coordinator*

KAREN SCHAEFER - *Secretarial Assistant*

### COMMISSION OFFICES:

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# *2005 - The Year's Highlights*

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## **FOSTERING WELLNESS AFTER CANCER**

More than 60% of people diagnosed with cancer now survive five years or more after treatment. Despite significant advances in cancer treatment and increased attention to general health, little is known about the level of wellness experienced by these survivors. In fact, many survivors who anticipated a return to premorbid health find themselves experiencing ongoing and distressing health and psychosocial sequelae.

In response to this critical need, the Psychosocial/Nursing Advisory Group to the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research sponsored a one day professional education conference titled "Fostering Wellness after Cancer" on April 4, 2005. This conference held at Seton Hall University explored current research in survivors' wellness; the role of health care professionals in fostering and promoting quality of life for survivors; and the components of a compelling research agenda.

Goals of the conference were to: (1) Review current literature dealing with wellness among cancer survivors; (2) Promote psychosocial/nursing research in wellness and cancer survivorship; (3) Assist clinicians and academics to network to find mutually compatible interests and to promote collaboration in wellness and cancer survivorship research; (4) Promote evidence-based practice to promote wellness among cancer survivors; (5) Discuss the impact of cancer on sexuality among survivors; and (6) Assess the role of nutrition in promoting wellness among cancer survivors.

The audience included over 100 health care professionals including nurses, social workers, therapists, physicians, nursing and psychosocial researchers, allied health professionals, students, and health care administrators.

Julia Rowland, PhD, Director, Office of Cancer Survivorship, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health presented the keynote address: Emerging Issues in Survivorship Research. Her inspirational talk set the stage for the entire day, and created a framework for considering the subsequent speakers and ideas. Generosa Grana, MD, Division Head, Hematology/Oncology, Cooper Hospital. University Medical Center discussed the latest in effective surveillance and monitoring, which provided the basis for participants to frame services and research questions relative to cancer survivorship. The psychosocial adjustment to wellness after treatment was presented by Jamie Ostroff, PhD, Chief, Behavior Sciences Services, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. During lunch, Michael Gallo, PhD, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Medicine, Associate Director of the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, candidly shared his personal and intimate feelings about his experience as a health professional/cancer survivor. Dr. Gallo then led a stimulating discussion with Drs. Rowland, Grana, Ostroff, Rabinowitz, and Ottery. Attendees were both moved and inspired by Dr. Gallo's provocative insights. The afternoon session featured Barbara Rabinowitz, PhD, MSW, Director of Oncology Services, Meridian Health System who shared her expertise with a thought provoking talk on helping patients and families face the hard questions about sexuality. This often difficult topic, so critical to the development of services and the research agenda was presented in a

clear and comprehensive manner. Helpful tips on promoting good nutritional strategies after cancer treatment was presented by Faith Ottery, MD, PhD, Director of Clinical Research, Savient Pharmaceuticals. Dr. Ottery's wealth of clear, targeted information about nutrition had considerable relevance for all who attended and provide an important foundation for the development of outreach to cancer survivors. The conference concluded with Denyse Adler, MA, President, The Adler Group, facilitating a wrap-up session on forging alliances and moving forward with research and education. Participants left excited and energized by the speakers. Conference evaluations were extremely positive. One participant remarked that this was one of the best conference ever attended on a much needed topic.

## **2005 ANNUAL RETREAT ON CANCER RESEARCH**

The 2005 Annual Retreat on Cancer Research was held on April 27, 2005 in Princeton, New Jersey. Sponsored by the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research and The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, the purposes of the retreat are to promote interaction among investigators, provide a forum for the presentation of original research, aid in career development and training through presented lectures and focus groups, and increase awareness of resources available within New Jersey.

The retreat has come a long way since its inception in 1987. Incorporating suggestions from past retreats, the planning committee strives to make each annual retreat better than the last. On mark of its success is the fact that this year, the conference brought together over 550 researchers, allied health professionals, nurses, students, patients and advocates. This level of participation was especially exciting because it provides many opportunities for networking among participants and with the invited speakers throughout the retreat. In addition, the retreat provides a setting for impromptu discussions during the poster sessions and oral presentations.

No scientific meeting is complete without distinguished speakers, and this event was no exception. Each year the retreat has included presentations by invited world-renowned researchers specifically chosen for their scientific accomplishments. This year, David Botstein, Ph.D., Director for the Lewis Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics at Princeton University, discussed his research in establishing the ground rules for human genetic mapping and his involvement in pioneering the application of microarray technology. Dr. Botstein has applied this novel technology to distinguish four distinct subtypes of breast cancer. Each of the subtypes needs a different type of medical treatment.

A satellite public symposium offered over 100 cancer survivors and advocates an open discussion on sexuality and reproductive health issues when living with cancer. Speakers included: Margaret Graf Garrisi, M.D., Medical Director of Assisted Reproduction at The Institute for Reproductive Medicine and Science of Saint Barnabas; Ronald A. Morton, M.D., Director of Urologic Oncology at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Professor and Chief of Urology, Department of Surgery at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; and Rachel Fite, Ph.D., Department of Psychiatry at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Poster sessions were held throughout the day featuring the excellent work being conducted in New Jersey. Each year, talented graduate and postdoctoral students compete for the NJ Cancer Research Award for Scientific Excellence. Genentech, Inc., major sponsor of the program, along with several other major pharmaceutical companies, sponsored the following awards:

1. Genentech, Inc. award to Mousumi Bose, Rutgers, The State University, for "Inhibition of Tumor Multiplicity in APCMIN/+ Mice by Supplementation of 10 Vitamins and Minerals"
2. Genentech, Inc. award to Jayeeta Dutta, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, for "Genetic Alterations of Topoisomerase in Colon Cancer"
3. Genentech, Inc. award to Chris R. Harris, The Institute for Advanced Study, for "P53 Responsive Elements in Human L1 Retrotransposons"
4. Genentech, Inc. award to Anders Lilja, Princeton University, for "Functional Genetic Analysis of Rhesus Cytomegalovirus Tropism and Oncogenic Potential"
5. Genentech, Inc. award to Isao Matsuura, Rutgers, The State University, for "Inhibition of SMAD Antiproliferative Function by CDK Phosphorylation"
6. Pfizer Oncology award to Ana Natale-Pereira, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, for "Factors that Influence Colorectal Cancer Screening in the Latino Community"
7. Celgene Corporation award to Parul Singh, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, for "Characterization of Tumor Responsive CD4+ and CD8+ T Cells in the Presence of Interleukin-12"
8. GlaxoSmithKline Oncology award to Courtney Williams, Princeton University, for "Cues from the Extracellular Matrix: The Role of Fibronectin in Breast Cancer Progression"
9. Biogen Idec award to Wen Xie, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, for "Derepression of SMAD Effectors of Transforming Growth Factor- $\beta$  Signaling Associated with Breast Cancer Progression"

## **WHITE BEECHES SPONSORS ANNUAL BENEFIT EVENT TO AID CANCER RESEARCH**

**{People + Passion = Power}** That is the strength of cancer advocates in New Jersey. The NJCCR is fortunate to have hundreds of talented volunteers who unselfishly contribute their time and expertise. Their skills, coupled with a passion to fight the war against cancer, provide an incredible power and energy to help people cope with cancer and fund research.

In 2005 The Ladies of White Beeches Golf and Country Club Benefit Luncheon in Haworth, New Jersey on July 12, 2005, raised over \$16,000 for cancer research in New Jersey. The daylong event brought together over 250 people who competed in bridge and golf tournaments. A wonderful luncheon and award ceremony followed, which also featured a Chinese auction.

This event has become the NJCCR's largest single-day fundraiser for cancer research and education. Over the past several years "The Ladies" have raised more than \$146,000, of which, one hundred percent of the proceeds supported cancer research at non-profit institutions in New Jersey.

As more funding for cancer research is needed to support the many deserving and promising programs in New Jersey, the NJCCR is very grateful and fortunate to be the beneficiaries of this very successful event.

## **THE NEW JERSEY BREAST AND PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH FUNDS**



The NJCCR administers the New Jersey Breast Cancer Research Fund (BCRF), and the Prostate Cancer Research Fund (PCRF) that was launched in 2003. These funds award breast and prostate cancer research grants and fellowships and cancer educational programs. Through a competitive scientific peer review process, the NJCCR makes awards for research projects focusing on the causes, prevention, screening, treatment or cure of breast or prostate cancer. Grants may also be awarded to basic, behavioral, clinical, demographical, epidemiological and psychosocial research.

The BCRF and PCRF are fueled through individual contributions and a check-off box on the New Jersey State Income Tax Return, which allows citizens to voluntarily contribute a portion of their income tax refund or payment. The BCRF finished number one among tax choices in tax year 2004, raising over \$240,000 for breast cancer research. Additionally, the PCRF finished number one amongst the new charitable choices, raising over \$22,000 for tax year 2004.

When these funds are combined with private donations and other special project revenues, the NJCCR will be able to award more grants, fellowships, and scholarships to breast and prostate cancer researchers throughout the state.

## **CELEBRATING CANCER SURVIVORSHIP THROUGH ART**

Cancer researchers across New Jersey are set to benefit from a traveling exhibition titled "Breast Cancer: An Artist's View". Top New Jersey artist, whose lives have been touched by breast cancer, launched their crusade on October 8, 2005 at the 1978 Maplewood Arts Center in Maplewood, New Jersey.

Curator and contributing artist, Clara Manheim, expects to raise enough from the sale of the art to support a Breast Cancer Fellowship approved by the NJCCR. This ongoing exhibition will feature over 20 pieces of work from some of New Jersey's biggest names.

Established artists, who donated their work, include: Francis Assara, Joan Bess, S.K. Duffy, Rayna Gillman, Joan Goldsmith, Ellen Hanover, Pamela Hastings, Nanci Hersh, Cassie Lewis, Barbara Lehroff, Deborah Livingston, Tony Lardi, Clara Manheim, Deb Mell, Chuck Miley, Betsy Ochs, Lois Shapiro, Lisa Suss, Jo Ellen Trilling, Cynthia Smith Weiss, Kay Weiner and Fran Willner.

## CONQUER CANCER LICENSE PLATE

The Conquer Cancer specialty license plate is making good on its promise to 'take the fight against cancer to the streets of New Jersey'. Since its inception in 1998, over 46,500 license plates have been sold and more than \$3.1 million dollars have been raised for cancer research in the state.



The NJCCR uses one hundred percent of the monies from the license plates to fund talented scientists at New Jersey research institutions. All grants and fellowships are competitive and subject to stringent scientific review. This nonpartisan approach ensures projects with the best chance for success are funded. The majority of seed grants awarded by the NJCCR have been very successful in attracting national funds for continued research in New Jersey. For every dollar the NJCCR has awarded, over \$5.65 on average, has been returned to the state for continued research. With a return like this, the purchase of one license plate provides the same benefit for cancer research as would a \$250 contribution.

In 2005, over 4,300 plates were sold, raising more than \$550,000, when renewal fees are included, for cancer research. With the consistent success of the license plate, New Jersey cancer researchers can look forward to additional grant and fellowship awards.

New Jersey motorists can purchase the plate at any time during the registration cycle for \$50, with a \$10 annual renewal fee, at all Motor Vehicle Commission offices or through its website [www.accessdmv.com](http://www.accessdmv.com).





## Research and Grant Highlights

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During its history, the NJCCR has successfully pursued a course of action that has brought it national recognition. Its highly competitive grant program, which relies upon systematic scientific peer review, assures that state monies for cancer research are awarded to those programs and scientists that offer the greatest potential for success. While providing immediate assistance to highly promising scientists, these seed grants also represent a sound long-term investment in the health of all New Jersey citizens.

Through awards, researchers are able to establish themselves in the rigorous world of national scientific competition as well as position themselves for national grants for their projects. With additional funding coming from outside sources, scientists working in New Jersey are building a research infrastructure to deal satisfactorily with the critical problems posed by cancer for the citizens of New Jersey.

The funds that the NJCCR directs to research on the causes, prevention, detection, and cure of cancer are not just monies spent, but are investments in the future of New Jersey citizens. By encouraging and identifying innovative research on cancer, and attracting and training some of the most talented and gifted scientists into this area of research, New Jersey is making a research investment that can pay vital dividends for all in years to come. These funds provide critical leverage in developing new scientific infrastructures and networks crucial for a broad-based and comprehensive approach to the fight against cancer. The NJCCR's challenge is to allocate funds rapidly and flexibly to assure that the new and promising ideas are brought quickly to bear on the understanding and prevention, detection, and cure of cancer.

Overall, applications for funding to the NJCCR have substantially increased in number. As a consequence, while the NJCCR has been able to fund a good percentage of meritorious research proposals, some deserving applications have gone unfunded. Nevertheless, this highly competitive grant program was able to award 15 grants for over \$847,895.

### TWO YEAR AWARDS

**Andreas Ivessa, Ph.D., UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School**

*Mechanisms of Mitochondrial DNA Inheritance*

\$97,240

**Yongkyu Park, Ph.D., UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School**

*Cis-spreading Mechanism of MSL complex in Chromatin*

\$96,800

**Monica J. Roth, Ph.D., UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School**

*Targeting Hematopoietic Stem Cells for Cancer Therapy*

\$99,000

## ONE YEAR AWARDS

Debabrata Banerjee, Ph.D., UMDNJ-The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

*Bone Marrow Derived Mesenchymal Stromal Cells for Therapy of Liver Mets of Colorectal Cancer*

\$47,025

Patrizia Casaccia-Bonofil, M.D., Ph.D., UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

*Defective Epigenetic Changes in the Genesis of Gliomas*

\$49,500

Bernadette M. Cracchiolo, M.D., MPH, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

*Genital Intraepithelial Neoplasia and Hypusination*

\$49,500

Yao-Ping Lu, Ph.D., Rutgers, The State University

*Selectivity of Proapoptotic Effects of Caffeine*

\$49,500

Mohamed M. Rafi, Ph.D., Rutgers, The State University

*In Vivo Efficacy and Proteomics Study Using a New Anticancer Compound*

\$25,630

## VIRGINIA KOEHLER LYMPHOMA AWARD

The NJCCR received a significant amount of contributions in memory of Ms. Virginia Koehler. As a result, the NJCCR was able to match these funds and offer one award that examined the causes, prevention or treatment of lymphoma.

Dale G. Schaar, M.D., Ph.D., UMDNJ-The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

*The Development of Phorbol Ester-Based Therapy for AML*

\$49,500

## BREAST CANCER RESEARCH FUND

Richard Eckner, Ph.D., UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

*Role of p300/CBP in Id Expression and Breast Cancer*

\$96,800

Seymour Garte, Ph.D., UMDNJ-School of Public Health

*Breast Cancer and Estrogens in African Americans*

\$27,500

Yibin Kang, Ph.D., Princeton University  
*Genetic Basis of Breast Cancer Progression from Dormancy*  
\$97,900

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Deborah Carr, Ph.D., Rutgers, The State University  
**Cancer and Aging in NJ: An Analysis of Future Trends**  
\$12,000

Susan Goodin, Pharm.D., BCOP, UMDNJ-The Cancer Institute of New Jersey  
*Enhancing Access to Cancer Clinical Trials Using a Systems Approach*  
\$25,000

Evelyn Robles-Rodriguez, RN, MSN, Cooper University Hospital  
*Improving Participation in Cancer Clinical Trials for Minorities and the Medically Underserved*  
\$25,000





## *Fellowships: A Commitment to the Future*

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Since 1988, the NJCCR has helped to attract and retain promising scholars pursuing careers in cancer research through its most successful fellowship program. Attracting a core of outstanding scientists to our research institutions not only brings in additional research dollars from other sources; it attracts promising investigators. Jobs are created, our technological base is enhanced, and the quality of science education is improved. As promising students come to New Jersey for their training, a continual source of scientists is also available for the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.

Over the years, the fellowship program has proven to be a sound and promising investment that has helped establish the foundation for the kind of scientific investigation that will keep New Jersey at the forefront in the war against cancer.

This year, the NJCCR was able to award 21 fellowships to students of outstanding merit, at over \$403,800.

### **POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS (\$69,000)**

**Donglin Liu, Ph.D., UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School**

*Alternate Polyadenylation of BMP2 mRNA in Cancer Cells*

**Joseph F. Porter, III, Ph.D., Rutgers, The State University**

*Regulation of RNA Decay in Activated/Transformed B Cells*

**Chi Y. Shin-Darlak, Ph.D., UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School**

*Characterization of a Silenced Chromatin from Yeast*

### **PRE DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS (\$38,000)**

**Adrienne T. Black, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School**

*Mechanisms of Ultraviolet Light Carcinogenesis*

**Mousumi Bose, Rutgers, The State University**

*EGCG and Omega-3 PUFA in Colon Cancer Prevention*

**Oyenike, O. Olabisi, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School**

*A Novel Function for Bcr in Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia*

**Sophia Spadavecchia, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School**

*Cellular Notch Signaling and Herpesvirus Pathogenesis*

## **SUMMER FELLOWSHIP (\$3,200)**

Kristen R. Bodtmann, Rutgers, The State University  
Aaron Carlson, Rutgers, The State University  
Jung C. Chang, Rutgers, The State University  
Neal Chatterjee, Princeton University  
Zhe Chen, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School  
Megan C. Feldt, Princeton University  
David L. Fischer, Seton Hall University  
Farah Khadim, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School  
Julia Manasson, Princeton University  
Gopi M. Patel, Center for Molecular Medicine/GSCC  
Shyam Patel, Rutgers, The State University  
Elenoe C. Smith, Princeton University  
Ruchira S. Ranaweera, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School  
Wenyu Zhang, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

## **NEW CANCER INITIATIVES**

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) and the NJCCR are committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives in Healthy New Jersey 2010 and the New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. With this in mind, the NJDHSS collaborated with the NJCCR under a special funding initiative to stimulate projects throughout New Jersey that support these objectives.

The NJCCR would like to thank NJDHSS Commissioner Dr. Fred M. Jacobs and State Epidemiologist and NJDHSS Deputy Director Dr. Eddy A. Bresnitz for their support.

*The following grants were funded under this initiative.*

Drew A. Helmer, M.D., MS, Department of Veterans Affairs, NJ Health Care System  
*Assessing Perceptions of Causality Among the Public*  
\$24,992

Brandon B. Johnson, Ph.D., NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Lynn M. Waishwell, Ph.D., CHES, UMDNJ-School of Public Health  
*Ideal vs. Expected Cancer Cluster Communications*  
\$25,000

Kathleen Walsh Scura, Ed.D., RN, APN, BC, William Paterson University  
*Prostate Cancer Education for Hispanic Men*  
\$24,981

Lynn M. Waishwell, Ph.D., CHES, UMDNJ-School of Public Health  
*Low Literacy Cancer Cluster Communication*  
\$25,000

## 2005 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### FUNDING

Cancer Research Fund	\$1,000,000
FY04/05 Second Year Award Funding/Carryover	588,594
Conquer Cancer License Plate	557,273
Breast Cancer Research Fund	241,639
Prostate Cancer Research Fund	23,841
Gifts, bequests, donations, grants	65,595

### TOTAL REVENUES

**\$2,476,942**

### EXPENSES

FY05 First Year Award Funding	
Grants, Fellowship, Meetings/Programs	\$926,798
FY05/06 Second Year Award Funding/Carryover	704,239
FY04/05 Second Year Award Funding	588,594
Research management & support	257,311

### TOTAL EXPENDITURES

**\$2,476,942**

Monies raised through the Breast Cancer Research Fund, Prostate Cancer Research Fund, and the Conquer Cancer License Plate or from contributions, do not finance the Commission's operating expenses. 100% of these contributions go directly to an approved cancer research project in New Jersey and are tax deductible.

Furthermore, what this information does not show, is the value of the tremendous amount of volunteer time that goes into these activities – the human element that makes the work of the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR) possible. On behalf of the NJCCR, we would like to thank everyone who has contributed time or money towards the fight against cancer.



## 2005 Advisory Groups

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The NJCCR has been fortunate in being able to work with a large number of health professionals, researchers, policy makers, and advocates from throughout New Jersey as part of its Advisory Group structure. The NJCCR wishes to thank all advisory group members for their support and to record its deepest appreciation for the contributions and services of members of the various Sub-Committees and Working Groups throughout the year.

### **BASIC RESEARCH ADVISORY GROUP**

#### **Chair:**

**JONATHAN YAELOW, PH.D.**

Rider University  
Lawrenceville, NJ

**SUZIE CHEN, PH.D.**

Rutgers, The State University  
Piscataway, NJ

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Garden State Cancer Center  
Belleville, NJ

**MARIE HOOVER, PH.D.**

Advanced Biomedical Laboratories  
Cinnaminson, NJ

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Rutgers, The State University  
Piscataway, NJ

**EDITH POSTEL, PH.D.**

Princeton University  
Princeton, NJ

**ELIZABETH RAVECHE, PH.D.**

UMDNJ-NJMS  
Newark, NJ

**IAN WHITEHEAD, PH.D.**

UMDNJ-NJMS  
Newark, NJ

**NANCY WOYCHICK, PH.D.**

UMDNJ-RWJMS  
Piscataway, NJ

### **BREAST CANCER RESEARCH ADVISORY GROUP**

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The Cancer Institute of NJ  
New Brunswick, NJ

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American Cancer Society, Eastern Division  
North Brunswick, NJ

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Patient Advocate  
Wallburg, NJ

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Patient Advocate  
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Morristown, NJ

**GAYLE CORNISH, RN, MPH**

Morristown Memorial Hospital  
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Advocate  
Trenton, NJ

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Participation & Access to Clinical Trials)**

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